

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Final Office action (Paper No. 20080513) mailed 21 May 2008.

Amendment of the Claims

Claims 1, 12 and 25 have been amended by this Amendment.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 through 37 are pending in the application and stand rejected.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 12 through 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Walters et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,914,695). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons:

The present invention relates to a system for renting a digital camera to a customer at places such as a hotel and an amusement park. The system is an online digital photograph processing system allowing a customer of a lodging house and an amusement park to receive and see a photograph captured by a rented digital camera through an online communication means or a television (TV). To this end, the customer rents a digital camera terminal for wirelessly transmitting image data of a digital photograph captured by the customer, together with data of the terminal's identification number. An access point device receives the transmitted data and transmits it to a central management center through an intranet. The central management center generates a user identification number of the customer; stores it to be correlated with both the terminal identification number and the identification number of the room assigned to the customer; receives the data from the digital camera terminal through the intranet; stores the received data in such a manner that the digital photograph is correlated with the user identification number; and, in response to a photograph projection request from the customer through the intranet, transmits corresponding image data to an Internet television through the intranet. An Internet protocol (IP) set-top box provides a connection between the Internet television and the intranet. A photograph editing device,

connected to the central management center, provides an online photograph editor to allow the customer to edit the digital photograph stored in the central management center through the intranet. A manager personal computer (PC) transmits details on the rental of the digital camera terminal and details on the room assignment in response to the customer's check-in to the central management center through the intranet.

The primary reference relied upon by the Examiner is Walters (U.S. Patent No. 6,914,695), which relates to process of operations with an interchangeable transmission device and apparatus for use therein for a common interface for use with digital cameras. Walters '695 discloses that a digital camera supplies images to a first computer of a network via a receiver which is enabled as a bridge for Bluetooth, wireless LAN and infrared transmission from a digital camera. Once a digital camera is registered in a computer system, transmissions from the camera can be transmitted to the receiving first computer and thereafter transferred over the network for creation of a multi-media file which can be viewed at a private network or Internet accessible second computer.

One of several features patentably distinguish the present invention over the prior art. First, the image editor discussed in Walters et al. is limited to adding captions to photographs using either the digital camera or a unit that may be plugged into the digital camera. As indicated in column 11, lines 57-65 of Walters et al.

"This writing area could be integrated by incorporation into the digital camera itself or it can be provided as a plugable unit. Appropriate data to be entered by the user could include information to appear in the caption of the image (e.g. "Photo of John and Sally taken at the corner of 42nd and 8th in New York City) or commands to be issued to the digital camera (e.g. "Send image to NYPD server at 555-1211)." (Emphasis Added)

However, amended independent claims 1, 12 and 25 state that the online photograph editor is connected to the central management center, while in Walters et al. clearly indicates that the editor is either part of the camera or a plugable unit that may be attached to the camera. This is significant since the present inventions allows the customer to edit his photographs anytime and anywhere and even after the digital camera has been returned to the hotel or theme park. Walters et al. has no such

capability. Once the camera is returned a caption may no longer be added to the photograph. Since people visiting theme and amusement parks while staying at hotels prefer to be engaged in the enjoyments offered by the facilities rather than editing photos, the ability to do so anytime and anyplace is a significant benefit.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 12 and 25 patentably distinguish over the prior art relied upon by reciting, as exemplified by claim 12,

“A system for renting a digital camera from a lodging house having guest rooms, the system comprising: a digital camera terminal being rented to a customer, said digital camera terminal wirelessly transmitting data including at least a terminal identification number of said digital camera terminal and including image data of a digital photograph captured by the customer, said digital camera terminal including a digital camera; an access device receiving the wirelessly transmitted data from said digital camera terminal, said access device transmitting the data received from said digital camera terminal through an intranet; a central management center being in communication with the intranet, said central management center receiving from the intranet the data transmitted by said access device including the terminal identification number and the image data; an Internet television being connected to the intranet, said Internet television being installed at a guest room of a lodging house, said Internet television providing an Internet protocol network access to the customer; a set-top box providing a connection between said Internet television and the intranet; a management computer transmitting information to said central management center through the intranet when the customer is assigned the guest room of the lodging house, the information including the terminal identification number and a room identification number corresponding to the guest room assigned to the customer, said central management center storing the terminal identification number and the room identification number corresponding to the guest room assigned to the customer received from said management computer, said central management center generating a user identification number of the customer, said central management center storing the generated user identification number to correlate the generated user identification number at least with the terminal identification number and with the room identification number and with the image data, said central management center transmitting the image data to said Internet television through the intranet in response to a request for the digital photograph, the request for the digital photograph being from the customer and through the intranet; and an editor unit being connected to said central management center, said editor unit editing the digital photograph stored in said central management center, the editing being

controlled by the customer through the intranet using the Internet TV or Internet using a personal computer.” (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12 through 37 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Walters et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,914,695) is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 through 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Walters *et al.*’ 695 in view of McIntyre *et al.* (U.S. Patent No.7,111,317). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons:

The secondary reference cited by the Examiner is McIntyre (U.S. Patent No.7,111,317), which relates to a system and method for obtaining photographic products and/or services and for the sharing of digital images without the need of a computer. In particular, a cable set top box and cable communication network is used for communication with third parties, including image service providers.

McIntyre et al. fails to disclose any capability to edit photographs in any form. Therefore, for the reasons discussed above, neither Walters et al. nor McIntyre et al. disclose or suggest the claim element “an editor unit being connected to said central management center, said editor unit editing the digital photograph stored in said central management center, the editing being controlled by the customer through the intranet using the Internet TV or Internet using a personal computer, laptop or other processor based device”. Therefore, the independent claims patentably distinguish over the combination of Walters et al. and McIntyre et al.

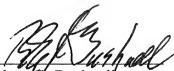
Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 through 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Walters *et al.*’ 695 in view of McIntyre *et al.* (U.S. Patent No.7,111,317) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance, and early issuance thereof is solicited. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

No fee is incurred by this Amendment after Final.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. E. Bushnell", written over a horizontal line.

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